

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). An apparatus comprising
a bite block configured for positioning within the oral cavity of a patient without use of an adhesive and including a tubular member sized and configured for passage into ~~an~~ the oral cavity, the tubular member being adapted to receive an external instrument, and

first and second gripping jaws carried by the bite block, the jaws capable of selectively moving between an open spaced-apart position and a ~~closed-adjacently-spaced~~ closed adjacently-spaced position and being positioned to be free of contact with the patient's teeth and tongue in both the open and closed positions.

2 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the jaws posses a resilient plastic memory.

3 (Currently amended). An apparatus as in claim 2
wherein the resilient ~~memory~~ plastic memory biases the jaws toward the closed position.

4 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 2
wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the open position.

5 (Previously presented). An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the jaws are positioned, in the closed position, to hold the external instrument.

6 (Previously presented). An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the jaws are positioned, in the open position, to permit removal, insertion, or alteration of the position of the external instrument.

7 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the jaws are selectively removable from the bite block.

8 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1
wherein the jaws are integral with the bite block.

9 (Currently amended). An apparatus comprising
a bite block configured for positioning within the oral cavity of a patient without use of an adhesive and including a tubular member sized and configured for passage into ~~an~~ the oral cavity, the tubular member being adapted to receive an external instrument,
first and second gripping jaws carried by the bite block, and

an actuator mechanism capable of selectively moving the jaws between an open spaced-apart position and a closed adjacently-spaced position, the jaws being positioned to be free of contact with the patient's teeth and tongue in both the open and closed positions.

10 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a cam surface.

11 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a cam mechanism.

12 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a squeeze clamp.

13 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism possess a resilient plastic memory.

14 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 13

wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the closed position.

15 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 13

wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the open position.

16 (Previously presented). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the closed position, to hold the external instrument.

17 (Previously presented). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the open position, to permit removal, insertion, or alteration of the position of the external instrument.

18 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism are selectively removable from the bite block.

19 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism are integral with the bite block.

20-46 (Canceled).